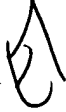


Appln. No.: 09/601,234  
Amendment Dated September 4, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of June 4, 2003

MAT-7999US

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the paragraph after the CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS and before the first paragraph, as follows:

  
This Application is a U.S. National Phase Application of PCT International Application No. PCT/JP99/06686, filed November 30, 1999 which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application 09/090,484, filed June 3, 1998, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,090,505, issued July 18, 2000.